

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/805,960

Examiner

Mark Blouin

Applicant(s)

KANDA, KOKI

Art Unit

2653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 9/10/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-8,13-15,18-21(renumbered 1-13).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Detailed Action

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on May 5, 2004 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/805960 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Response to Amendment

2. The reply filed 10 September 2004 was applied to the following effect: Claims 1,13, and 21 are amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. All relevant rejections are withdrawn as being satisfied.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1-3,6-8,13-15, and 18-21 (renumbered as 1-13) are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This application is for a head slider.

- **Claims 1 and 13** specify a head slider, which requires:

"...a third protection film portion formed at the outflow end adjacent to the first and second protection film portions, the top surfaces of the head portion and the dummy head portion being formed between the top surfaces of the air bearing portions and the third protection film portion, wherein the first and second protection film portions are orthogonal to the protection film disposed on one of the air bearing portions."

These features, in combination with the other features of Claims 1,13, and 21, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

- **Claim 21** specifies a head slider, which requires:

*“... wherein the head portion is formed **adjacent** to one of the air bearing portions and a top surface of the head portion formed lower by a step with respect to the head slider main body than a top surface of the air bearing portions, and wherein a rear end surface of the head portion on the base portion projects from the one of the air bearing portions in a direction of the airflow less than a rear end surface of the base portion.”*

These features, in combination with the other features of Claim 21, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant’s arguments, see Paper filed September 10, 2004, with respect to Claims 1,13, and 21 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 1-3,6-8,13-15, and 18-21 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

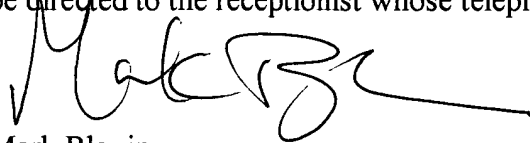
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gopinathan et al (USPN 6,433,965), Kameyama (USPN 6,351,345), Boutaghou et al (USPN 6,462,909), Anaya-Dulfresne et al (USPN 6,144,528) are cited to show slider of similar air bearing surface configurations and the use of protection films.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is (703) 305-5629. The examiner can normally be reached M-F, 6:00 am – 3:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached at (703) 305-6137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314 for regular and After Final communications.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



Mark Blouin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2653
December 9, 2004

A. J. HEINZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP ~~2000~~ A.U. 2653

